

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 033373

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ORIGIN EB-02

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66611

DRAFTED BY: EB/TT/MA:SVSMITH:EW

APPROVED BY: EB/TT/MA:JPSTEINMETZ

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R 131935Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOR CLAPPIN/BANK

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOGADISCIO 0222 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
HONG KONG NAIROBI PEKING 11 FEBRUARY.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOGADISCIO 0222

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT PFOR SO US

SUBJECT: REGISTRATION OF SOMALI SHIPS

1. SECRETARY FOR FISHERIES AND MARINE TRANSPORT
TOLD ME FEB. 11 THAT GSDR WAS CANCELLING ITS CON-
TRACT WITH SODERI (SOCIETE POUR LE DEVELOPMENT
DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES), WHICH IS "EXCLUSIVE
AGENT" FOR REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN SHIPS UNDER SOMALI
FLAG. GSDR HAD TEN YEAR CONTRACT WITH SODERI AND
THIS CONTRACT HAD ONE MORE YEAR TO RUN. HOWEVER,
SODERI HAD VIOLATED VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF CONTRACT
(SUCH AS PROVISION THAT NO RPT NO SHIPS OVER THIRTY
YEARS OLD BE REGISTERED UNDER SOMALI FLAG) AND THIS
GAVE GSDR LEGAL JUTIFICATION FOR EARLY CANCELLATION.
HE STATED GSDR HAD ONLY RECEIVED TWO TO THREE MILLION
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PAGE 02 STATE 033373

SHILLINGS (APPROXIMATELY 300 THOUSAND TO 500 THOUSAND

DOLLARS) INCOME ANNUALLY FROM THE REGISTRATION ARRANGEMENT.

2. SECRETARY SAID GSDR REACHED THIS DECISION SHORTLY AFTER PRESIDENT SIAD'S RETURN FROM US, THAT PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION HAD BEEN SENT TO SODERI AND SOMALI EMBASSIES ABROAD, AND THAT HE EXPECTED FORMAL DATE OF TERMINATION WOULD BE MARCH 1.

3. COMMENT: SECRETARY'S COMMENTS CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT SOMALIA WOULD BE ELIMINATED FROM RANKS OF "FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE" STATES. WE CAN ONLY ASSUME FROM HIS REMARKS THAT PRC-OWNED VESSELS WERE REGISTERED UNDER SOMALI FLAG THROUGH SODERI, WHICH SECRETARY TERMED "EXCLUSIVE AGENT" FOR SUCH ACTIVITY.
KIRK UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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05 JUL 2006

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